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Question Time: What are the odds?

Does it take a certain amount to get you to play?

By Rob Burgess
Tribune night editor

[**Editor's note**: To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

Wednesday's Powerball drawing was the fourth largest lottery jackpot in history at a whopping pre-tax amount of $448 million. As it turned out, none of us held any of the three winning tickets purchased in Minnesota and New Jersey. Earlier in the day Wednesday, though, we asked: "Are you playing? If you are, how hopeful are you of beating the 1 in 175 million odds? If you aren't playing, is there a certain amount the jackpot would have to surpass to get you to participate?"

Your Answers

"Buying a ticket today! I haven't bought a lottery ticket in years." — **Eric Ferguson**

"Almost makes buying a lottery ticket tempting. I would probably die of a

heart attack if I won, though.” — **Jennifer Jackson**

“I’d take the lump sum. I’m still rich!!!! [I’d] buy $5 million worth of guns/ammo.” — **John ODouglass Orndorff**

“Phenomenal amount of money. I couldn't even imagine hitting the whole amount. I would be happy with any amount, honestly.” — **James Troyer**

Our Answers

“Yes I am. Not too hopeful. I would not mind just winning a small part of it. A hundred grand would be nice.” — **Nancy Barth**

“I want to go buy tickets. This seems meant to be. Your agenda setting has persuaded to play what we call the ‘stupid people tax.’” — **Josh Sigler**

“I am playing. I never expect to win but I do keep a little tiny bit of hope down deep inside that I could be the winner this time.” — **Charlene Woodruff**

“It makes no real sense, but every time the lottery tops, say, $200 million I start salivating. The odds themselves don’t change with the prize offered; it just somehow seems slightly more plausible I might win. In reality, I’d

probably be just as thrilled by the minimum jackpot of $40 million as I would $400 million. But who ever said the human mind was prone to rationality?” — **Rob Burgess**

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